

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-5051

August 3, 2023

Mr. Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S.
Acting Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Acting Director Tabak:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) is investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to that investigation, we are evaluating Federal funding of gain-of-function research, specifically the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) oversight and funding of Coronavirus-based research programs using U.S. taxpayer dollars.

According to extensive testimony, the Select Subcommittee is aware that scientific work on a project may be conducted prior to a funding proposal or decision.¹ Therefore, it is vital for the Select Subcommittee to have a more thorough understanding of the work or potential work that has been conducted on Coronaviruses, even if it was not awarded federal funding via NIH.

Approximately 20 percent of applications submitted were granted in fiscal year 2021.² As such, since scientific work on a project may have commenced prior to a decision on a grant award, the Select Subcommittee is interested in the work of the numerous projects that NIH denied.

To further the Select Subcommittee's investigation, we request the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2023:

1. All Coronavirus-based research proposals that included any work to be conducted or supported by individuals or institutions in China or South East Asia submitted by applicants or reviewed by NIH or NIAD between January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2020 that NIH or NIAD declined, denied, or otherwise ultimately did not fund.

¹ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Transcribed Interview of Kristian Andersen, at 87-88 (June 16, 2023); Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Transcribed Interview of Walter Ian Lipkin, at 72 (Apr. 6, 2023); Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Transcribed Interview of Michael Farzan, at 26 (Apr. 21, 2023); Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Transcribed Interview of Robert Garry, at 101 (June 9, 2023).

² Success Rates: R01-Equivalent and Research Project Grants, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, *available at* <https://report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/category/10>

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2. All documents and communications between or among NIAID, NIH, and/or HHS regarding each of the proposals in Request (1).

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate “the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic, including but not limited to the Federal Government’s funding of gain-of function research” under H. Res. 5. To ask any follow up or related questions please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.

Chairman

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic